



SOUTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Hillsview Properties Plaza, East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-6369
FAX: (605) 773-5483 TTY: (605) 773-5990
www.state.sd.us/state/dhs/ddc

DDC NOTES – OCTOBER 2008

DD Council Meeting held October 9-10 – The Council met in Chamberlain. The first day Council members learned about activities through a Council funded grant entitled, the Movement to Self-Directed Services. Information focused on Person Centered Thinking Skills activities and progress. The second day included approval of funding for Partners in Policymaking Year 17 and discussion of future Requests for Funding.

Education & Training Mini-Grants for FFY2009 Available – The Council has issued a Request for Proposals for Mini-Grants (Less than \$5000) with a specific emphasis on projects that focus on dental services, employment of people with developmental disabilities, Individual Justice Planning, and assisting community recreation programs to become inclusive.

WeConnect - SD Parent Connection's newest e-newsletter is a great way to get the latest information. For more information on WeConnect and other programs offered by SDPC call 1-800-640-4553 or visit their website at www.sdparent.org

The following items may be of interest – inclusion in DDC Notes does not constitute endorsement by the Council.

Voter Information Portal – Secretary of State Chris Nelson invites all South Dakotans to check out the Voter Information Portal through his office's website – <http://www.sdsos.gov/> By entering your name and date of birth, a search will be completed to show your voter registration information, polling place location and your sample ballot for primary and general elections.

Voting Rights Website - The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights / Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund is pleased to bring you a special Voting Resources and Voting Rights. <http://www.civilrights.org/issues/voting/> This comprehensive resource center will give the public the information they need to register to vote, be prepared for Election Day, and help publicize efforts to ensure that every vote is counted. All information on the site is non-partisan.

Montana Couples with Disabilities Take on SSI Marriage Penalty - In a packed room, with U.S. Senate Finance Committee staff linked in by phone, Montana People First members and others offered personal testimony about the pain and suffering caused by the SSI "marriage penalty." Following the testimony, they presented over 2500 petition signatures they had collected from citizens all over Montana to a local staff member of Sen. Max Baucus, who chairs the Senate Finance Committee. In addition to the monetary penalty suffered by SSI recipients who marry, those presenting testimony cited additional penalties such as:

- Not being able to openly celebrate their love and commitment to one another in the company of friends and family
- Not being able to inherit one another's estates as a spouse
- Not being able to get information when their partner is in the hospital
- Not being able to make end of life decisions for their partner when necessary
- Not being able to make funeral arrangements for their partner
- Not being able to live openly as husband and wife

Montana People First members hope that their efforts will inspire others around the country to join them in asking their Senators and Representatives to take legal action to remove the marriage penalty from the SSI program.

Disabilities and the Environment - One of the easiest ways to inform yourself about the latest science about environmental contaminants that are associated with neurodevelopmental disorders is to read the "Scientific Consensus Statement on Environmental Agents Associated with Neurodevelopmental Disorders" developed by the Collaborative on Health and the Environment's Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative, available at <http://www.iceh.org/pdfs/LDDI/LDDIStatement.pdf>. This statement, signed by more than 50 scientists and health professionals, reviews and summarizes the science concerning the association between environmental contaminants and Learning Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Intellectual Disabilities, and Developmental Delays. The statement discusses the importance of the timing of exposure, bioaccumulation, variable sensitivity, and evidence of exposures. This is a thorough and readable review of what is known about the association between environmental agents and neurodevelopmental disorders.

****PLEASE NOTE** FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE for People with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families –**
The Council has set-aside funding for *BOTH in-state and OUT-OF-STATE travel assistance for the upcoming fiscal year*. A limited amount of funds are available. Guidelines and application forms can be requested from the Council Office or found at the Council's web site. Limited funds are also available for recreation opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

Oct 20, 2008	Yankton – Regional Transition Forum
Oct 20, 2008	Sioux Falls – Advanced Session on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and SSI
Oct 20, 2008	Sioux Falls – Benefits & School to Work Transition Workshop in 2008
Oct 21, 2008	Sioux Falls – Self Employment and People with Disabilities – Using a PASS to become self-employed.
Oct 22, 2008	Chamberlain – Regional Transition Forum
Oct 22, 2008	Employment, SSI and Medicaid Workshop in 2008
Oct 22, 2008	Employment, SSI and Medicare Workshop in 2008
Oct 23, 2008	Sioux Falls – GreenSTAR Symposium 2008 & Resource Fair
Oct 23, 2008	Rapid City – Advanced Session on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and SSI
Oct 23, 2008	Rapid City – Benefits & School to Work Transition Workshop in 2008
Oct 24, 2008	Rapid City – Self-Employment and People with Disabilities – Using a PASS to become self-employed
Oct 24, 208	Mission – Teaching Students with Prenatal Substance Exposure
Nov 3, 2008	Sioux Falls – Transition Outcomes and Indicator 13 (for educators and administrators)
Nov 4, 2008	Aberdeen – Transition Outcomes and Indicator 13 (for educators and administrators)
Nov 5, 2008	Chamberlain - Transition Outcomes and Indicator 13 (for educators and administrators)
Nov 6, 2008	Rapid City - Transition Outcomes and Indicator 13 (for educators and administrators)
Nov 13, 2008	Pierre – Alzheimer's and People with Disabilities and Care for the Care Giver
Nov 20, 2008	Madison – Regional Transition Forum
Apr 30 – May 2, 2009	Rapid City - SDAEYC/SD HeadStart Assn Annual Conference

FUTURE ISSUES OF DDC NOTES

- If you receive this via regular mail and want to receive it by e-mail, let me know and I'll make that change.
- If you no longer want to receive this information, let me know and I'll take you off the list.
- If you know of others who may be interested, please share this with them or have them contact me to be added to the mailing list.

Inclusion of information in DDC Notes is not an endorsement of the activity. If you have questions about any of the information provided, please contact the Council at – Hillsview Plaza, E. Hwy 34, c/o 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501 or 605-773-6369 or 1-800-265-9684 or by email at arlene.poncelet@state.sd.us.